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Agenda item 125

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Report of the Fifth Committee

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I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 17 September 1999, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. For its consideration of the item, the Fifth Committee had before it the report of the Committee on Contributions.[1]

3. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 8th, 10th, 11th and 49th meetings, on 18, 19, 20 October and 21 December 1999. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/54/SR.8, 10, 11 and 49).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.28

4. At the 49th meeting, on 21 December, the representative of Ireland and coordinator of informal consultations on this item introduced a draft resolution entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations" (A/C.5/54/L.28),

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 11* (A/54/11).

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which had been submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations, and orally corrected it by substituting the words "the Republic of Kiribati" for "Kiribati", "the Republic of Nauru" for "Nauru" and "the Kingdom of Tonga" for "Tonga" in the second preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 1 to 6 of part A of the draft resolution.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.28 without a vote (see para. 9).

6. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of India made a statement.

B. Draft decisions A/C.5/54/L.29 and A/C.5/54/L.30

7. Also at the 49th meeting, the representative of Ireland and coordinator of informal consultations on this item introduced two draft decisions entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations" (A/C.5/54/L.29 and A/C.5/54/L.30), which had been submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decisions A/C.5/54/L.29 and A/C.5/54/L.30 without a vote (see para. 10, draft decisions I and II).

III. Recommendations of the Fifth Committee

9. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

A

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 54/1, 54/2 and 54/3 of 14 September 1999,

Also recalling the recommendations of the Committee on Contributions with respect to the assessment of the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of Nauru and the Kingdom of Tonga as non-member States,[2]

Further recalling its resolutions 52/215 A of 22 December 1997 and 53/36 E of 18 December 1998 and its decision 47/456 of 23 December 1992,

1. *Decides* that the rate of assessment for the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of Nauru and the Kingdom of Tonga, admitted to membership of the United Nations on 14 September 1999, should be 0.001 per cent for 1999 and 2000;

2. *Also decides* that the contributions of the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of Nauru and the Kingdom of Tonga for 1999 should be calculated on the basis of one twelfth of their rate of assessment for 1999 per full calendar month of membership and that a

[2] Ibid., *Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 11* (A/51/11), sect. V; and ibid., *Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 11* (A/53/11), chap. V.

corresponding adjustment should be made in their assessments for 1999 as non-member States;

3. *Further decides* that the contributions of the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of Nauru and the Kingdom of Tonga for 1999 and 2000 should otherwise be applied to the same basis of assessment as for other Member States, except that, in the case of appropriations or apportionments approved by the General Assembly for the financing of peacekeeping operations, the contributions of the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of Nauru and the Kingdom of Tonga, as determined by the group of Member States to which they may be assigned by the Assembly, should be calculated in proportion to the calendar year;

4. *Decides* that the 1999 assessments of the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of Nauru and the Kingdom of Tonga should be taken into account as miscellaneous income in accordance with regulation 5.2 (c) of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations;

5. *Also decides* that, for 2000, the rate of assessment for the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of Nauru and the Kingdom of Tonga should be added to the scale of assessments established by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/215 A;

6. *Further decides* that, in accordance with financial regulation 5.8, the advances of the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of Nauru and the Kingdom of Tonga to the Working Capital Fund should be calculated by the application of their rate of assessment of 0.001 per cent to the authorized level of the Fund and should be added to the Fund pending the incorporation of their rate of assessment in a 100 per cent scale.

B

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Contributions on its fifty-ninth session,[3]

Recalling its resolution 53/36 C of 18 December 1998,

1. *Decides* that the Committee on Contributions should not consider further the questions covered in paragraphs 69 and 70 and 73 and 74 of its report;

2. *Requests* the Committee to further consider measures to encourage the timely, full and unconditional payment of assessed contributions and to make appropriate recommendations, pursuant to its general mandate under paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 14 A (I) of 13 February 1946.

C

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/207 B of 11 April 1996, 52/215 B of 22 December 1997 and 53/36 B, 53/36 C and 53/36 D of 18 December 1998,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Contributions on its fifty-ninth session,[4]

[3] Ibid., *Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 11* (A/54/11), chap. IV, sect. C.

[4] Ibid., sects. A and B.

Reaffirming the obligation of all Member States to bear the expenses of the United Nations, as apportioned by the General Assembly, in conformity with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming also the fundamental principle that the expenses of the Organization should be apportioned among Member States broadly according to their capacity to pay, as specified in rule 160 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly,

1. *Urges* all Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without imposing conditions, to prevent financial difficulties for the United Nations;

2. *Reaffirms* its role in accordance with the provisions of Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations and the advisory role of the Committee on Contributions in accordance with rule 160 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

3. *Urges* all Member States in arrears requesting exemption under Article 19 to provide the fullest possible supporting information, including information on economic aggregates, government revenues and expenditure, foreign exchange resources, indebtedness, difficulties in meeting domestic or international financial obligations, and any other information that might support the claim that failure to make necessary payments had been attributable to conditions beyond the control of the Member States;

4. *Decides* that requests for exemption under Article 19 must be submitted by Member States to the President of the General Assembly at least two weeks before the session of the Committee on Contributions, so as to ensure a complete review of the requests.

10. The Fifth Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

The General Assembly:

(a) Recalls its resolution 53/36 G of 28 July 1999;

(b) Decides that Georgia is permitted to vote under Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations until 30 June 2000;

(c) Decides also that, if Georgia requests further exemption under Article 19, it should submit a request in this respect in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 54/__ of __ December 1999, whereby requests for exemption under Article 19 must be submitted by Member States to the President of the General Assembly at least two weeks before the session of the Committee on Contributions, so as to ensure a complete review of the requests.

Draft decision II
Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

The General Assembly decides to continue consideration of agenda item 125, entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations", as a matter of priority at the first part of its resumed fifty-fourth session, and to approve, no later

than the last day of the first part of its resumed fifty-fourth session, the methodology that would instruct the Committee on Contributions to recommend to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a scale of assessments for the period 2001-2003.